

The Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1969



Murals around LHS

The walls of LHS get new life as talented students transform dull, white cinder-block into colorful works of art.

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A Very Potter Review

Wondering if the latest Harry Potter installment lives up to the hype? Find out now!

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

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Volume LII Issue II— December 2010

New policy to notify students of tardiness

■ Julia Sun
Staff Writer

The Student-Faculty Senate passed a resolution last month that aimed to reduce confusion and increase transparency in marking tardies.

The Notification of Tardiness Resolution, authored by Sen. Jonah Bader, on the Musket staff states that students should be informed when teachers mark them tardy. It was passed on Nov. 3.

Under the new attendance policy, tardiness is left to the discretion of individual teachers. Because tardiness policies vary by teacher, students may be unsure of whether they were considered tardy by a teacher, especially when the student is

only slightly tardy.

How a teacher determines tardiness depends on factors such as the location of the teacher's classroom and his or her leniency on the matter.

If the teachers inform students that they are tardy, students will not be surprised when attendance records are distributed.

"Clear communication about our attendance status makes it easier for us to function in a productive and efficient way," said Principal Natalie Cohen.

Students can check their attendance records on X2, the attendance system, and can ask their teachers if they were marked late. If a student is slightly late, though, he or she may worry about calling attention to the fact for fear [TARDY page 7]



Staff photo by Abby Heingartner

The Madrigals, a select choral group at Lexington High School, carried on the popular tradition of caroling during the holiday season at Seasons Four and other locations. For more information about the Madrigals, see the article on page 2.

Freshman Class Council begins planning events and fundraisers

■ Caitlin Go
Staff Writer

All along the main hallway, posters of unfamiliar faces and campaign slogans - serious and silly - lined the walls. It was four weeks into the school year, and homeroom teachers were already handing out ballots. Even though those from Clarke and those from Diamond were still getting to know each other, it was time for the freshmen elections.

These elections decided the holders of several offices, including the representatives of the Class of 2014 in the Freshman Council, responsible for its class's activities throughout the year.

Kevin Song was elected

president, while David Yoon, Anisa Haque and Josh Sharma were voted vice president, treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Among these new officers, some have already had experience in student government.

"I was the president of the student council at Diamond Middle School and I really enjoyed representing the student body and making a difference on important issues and events such as dances," said Song, explaining his reason for running this school year.

As the president of the class council, Song is in charge of running the meetings. These are loosely structured and focus on planning the major events scattered

throughout the year.

What sets the Freshman Council apart, said class adviser Martha Queenin, is the period of adjustment.

"At the beginning," she said, "we're doing a whole lot of getting to know each other, getting to know the school, getting them interested in how the school runs. We need to look at rules that are out there first, how you fund-raise; really setting the tone."

Queenin, one of Lexington High School's social workers and a council adviser for many years, attends meetings to assist the new council members. As the adviser, she helps the officers and council members think of ideas for fundraising and class activities. [COUNCIL, page 7]

Technology becoming more present at LHS

■ Noah Star
Op/Ed Editor

As technology plays an increasingly greater role in society, innovations have slowly permeated into school systems.

Lexington High School is a prime example of technological evolution; with each passing year a new tool is presented to teachers and students to enhance education.

The introduction of X2 was one of the first indicators of Lexington High School's slow transition into a more technologically advanced learning environment. Nearly all of the everyday paperwork for teachers has been transferred onto computers,

ranging from attendance records to grade books. The X2 Student Portal was recently opened, too, allowing students and parents to check attendance records through the use of a username and password.

Flora Wang, a senior who has witnessed the full evolution of the attendance system, said, "Although I don't actively check my own attendance, my parents do use the account to see how I am doing."

Even though Wang herself does not use the student portal, she deems it both necessary and useful. "Kids can check their attendance in case they are N-ing out," she said.

The issue of attendance is [TECHNOLOGY, page 7]

Questions? Comments? E-mail us at musketnews@gmail.com

Religions overlooked in days off

■ Anubhav Jain
News Editor

In Lexington Public Schools, students are given days off on different holidays such as Rosh Hashanah or Veterans Day. Throughout the year, the holidays range from religious observances to major events in American history.

Although there are many religious holidays throughout the school year, they are heavily based on the Jewish and Christian holidays and overlook other holidays from religions such as Islam and Hinduism.

Various religions have ranked the top four religions of the world as Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Lexington High School has a growing Hindu population. The district, however, does not give days off to religious holidays such as Diwali or Eid al-Fitr.

Because of the uneven distribution of official religious holidays, Hindu and Muslim students have to make a choice between going to school and their religious observance.

Instead of celebrating the end of Ramadan with their families, Muslim students are forced to come to school in order to keep up with their class work.

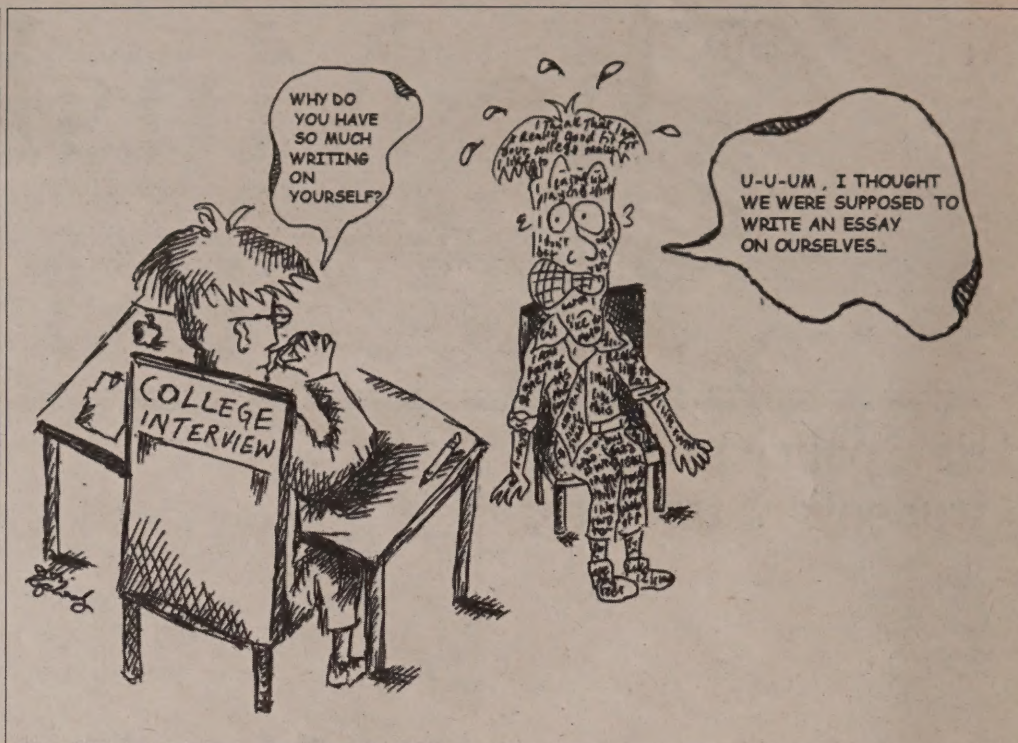
If they do choose to miss school, teachers don't provide them any extra time to make up the missing work. The additional workload often makes it very difficult for the student to catch up and still get enough sleep to function the next day.

Thus, the choice of giving school off for religious holidays for some religions and not for others put these students in a sticky situation.

In order to give these students of different religions more flexibility with their religious and school obligations, the school system should look to revise the holidays it provides by either making it so that all the religions are represented in one way or another or by removing the existence of any non-federal religious holidays throughout the year.

For example, Cambridge Public Schools recently made a move to give off one of the Eid holidays, helping to represent another religion in the community.

Lexington Public Schools needs to work on creating a more [HOLIDAYS, page 7]



Comic by Atri Raychowdhury

Shift in choral department is positive

■ Kiran Mani
Staff Writer

On my first day of high school, I transferred out of debate and replaced it with mixed chorus.

Getting my required art credits out of the way seemed like the practical thing to do, and singing – which had always been an integral part of my life, seemed like an enjoyable way to get credit. Somewhat skeptical of a public school's choral department, I envisioned a class with indifferent students who would not be able to hold a note. I was wrong.

The 2007 seasonal concert was the first time I saw the choral department in its entirety. It was the first combined concert of the year with mixed chorus and the honors

choruses.

I remember the Madrigal singers, all upperclassman, draped in their long black dresses. In their plain attire they somehow managed look glamorous as they took their places on stage.

As the 15 elite singers sang traditional Christmas carols, each voice resonated with a beautiful intensity that rang throughout the auditorium. With wide eyes I leaned over and whispered into my neighbor's ear, "I want to be in Madrigals."

I didn't realize that there was an entire culture of the Madrigal singers. Madrigals was thought of as a brilliant, top-tier singing group, and its presence was felt in the choral department.

Getting selected into choral groups was seen as a political process, one in which

the current Madrigal singers might have some influence. Everyone wanted to befriend the Madrigal singers, thinking that if they were "in" with the Madrigal crowd, they were more likely to be in Madrigals next year.

With a new choral director, the dynamics of the choral department have changed. I am a senior and a soprano in Madrigals. As a challenging honors course at the high school, there are no apathetic students in Madrigals; all the choral groups must work hard to receive an A.

Outside the music department there is hardly any glamor or rumors attached to the Lexington High School Madrigal name. A friend asked me the other day what I was doing after school. I told her I had a Mads rehearsal. "A math quiz?" she questioned, looking

confused.

I am so glad that this is the year I am in Madrigals. The group I am in is down-to-earth and supportive. Our connectedness stems from our mutual commitment to music, and not from our similar hierarchical status.

Our first concert was a month ago, and each of us anxiously took our places on stage, about to make our debut. The audience was silent as we sang, tentatively at first, but growing stronger and stronger with every bar.

I realized that I could not hear my own voice. Neither could I hear my neighbor's voice, nor the voice next to his. Instead I heard a blend of sounds, so connected it was almost one voice producing a multitude of tones, pouring out from our hearts into the auditorium.

Dear Musket Readers,

There is no word for the joy our staff feels at the arrival of the second issue. There probably should be. If you know any linguists interested in coining a new phrase, please contact us immediately. For the time being, the simple words "relief" and "happiness" suffice.

So here we are: issue two. The past month's been chock full of hazy deadlines, long hours in the Musket newsroom, and feverish editing. It's been intense. But it all came together, and now you're holding our hard work in your very hands! Relish the typos – count them up and send a well-written rant to our e-mail account. Are you curious about some school-related topic or other? Shoot us an e-mail, and we'll try to investigate it. Disagree with an editorial? Write a letter to the editors. We want to hear what you have to say.

A special thanks to our wonderful team, all Lexington High School teachers and staff who enthusiastically promoted the Musket, our heroic subscribers and our devoted readership (sure, we'll count you even if you only picked up the paper for the crossword and then left it in the recycling bin; at least you're environmentally conscious). We hope you enjoy this issue!

Thank you,
Christopher Alessandrini & Katherine Mirani
Editors-in-Chief

Kenyan school built thanks to Amnesty

■ Sarah Zhang
Divya Dharamaraj
Staff Writers

Three years ago, the LHS chapter of Amnesty International started to raise money to build a school in Kenya.

Today, after bake sales, art sales and movie nights, the school stands in Masai Mara, a poverty-stricken area of the East African country.

The LHS Amnesty club decided to cooperate with the organization Free the Children in order to complete the project, suggested by Hiba Dhanani, a former president of Amnesty, who had relatives living in Kenya at the time.

"It was an exciting journey," said Hannah Weinrock, co-president and secretary of the club. "It was really cool to [be a] part of this process."

But the process wasn't easy.

"They had to raise close to \$10,000 to do it," said Kristin Strobel, the club's faculty adviser, "so it's really amazing."

Weinrock's favorite part



Photo courtesy of Chelsea Deng

Senior Lovisa Ljungberg (second from left), hosts last year's Jamnesty event. The event includes performances by student groups and bands to benefit Amnesty International's work.

of the process, though, was "the fact that we actually have the power to do something to help is what is really motivating," Weinrock said. "[It's great that] we can actually help someone even if we're just high-schoolers."

Although nobody has been able to visit the complet-

ed school, the members of the club were satisfied with the outcome of the project.

"It was thrilling," Weinrock said. "We were able to see how our hard work paid off, and what an impact it would make in the lives of others."

Supporting education, though, is not

the club's only focus.

In previous years, Amnesty, which is part of the larger Amnesty International organization that campaigns for human rights around the world, has worked on several other projects.

One example is a campaign for the [AMNESTY, page 7]

The Musket's favorite quotes!

"The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up"
-Paul Valery

"The elevator to success is out of order. You'll have to use the stairs, one step at a time."
-Joe Girard

"Writing a book is like dropping a rose petal down the Grand Canyon and waiting for the echo"
-Don Marquis

"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it."
-Oscar Wilde

collegebored

Who won the 400-mile dash?

■ Ally Engelberg
Columnist

Listen up folks. Get the word out. Update your Facebook status, text it, tweet it, blog it, vlog it, sing it, shout it, light it up on rooftops all across this town. This girl, yes me, yours truly, has applied to college.

Congratulations, you say to me. You did it! You clicked submit, you sent in your ACT, SAT and AP scores. You checked your essays for typos for the billionth time and you paid those greedy application readers the ridiculous sum of 60 bucks.

So, you might then say to me when the sheer novelty and excitement of this whole experience simmers down, the deed is done. Yes, you might say, you can sit back and relax now, because the hard part is most certainly over.

Well, retract your words, my friend. Take them back, delete them, erase them from the record, because the wait is the hardest part yet.

Sure, spending most Saturdays of the last year at Woburn High School taking standardized tests was emotionally deadening. Sure, writing

all those essays was seriously difficult. And yes, organizing my teacher recommendations, transcripts and early decision agreements was terribly confusing.

But here's the catch: the next step in this pursuit of higher education is a whole lot of waiting, and waiting is a terrible guest to have to entertain.

Indulge me for a moment: Imagine you have just run the 400-mile dash in the Olympics. It was long and tiring -- you were sprinting for months, nonstop. You were smart about the race, though. You were well-trained. You took water breaks often. And you finished!

Some people dropped out of the race, buckling under the pressure and fatigue.

You, however, made it to the end, that glorious finish, that moment you threw your hands up in the air and crossed the finish line.

So, did you get gold? What was your time? Did you break the world record? All your friends are asking, and you want to know so badly -- and you are entitled to know! After all, you just spent the last four months of your life completely devoted to this race.

Yet, [COLLEGE, page 6]

Paul Morrissey, 20, saw the world through a different, unique lens

■ Chris Alessandri
Katherine Mirani
Editors-in-Chief

Former Lexington High School student Paul Morrissey died on Oct. 18 in Arlington. He was 20.

According to those who knew him, Morrissey perceived the details in his surroundings that no one else saw.

"He took a lot of really cool urban pictures," his sister Laura Morrissey said. "Architecture and people, things that any normal person, including myself, wouldn't notice. You know, broken bricks on the ground you kind of step over -- to him it was a disruption of a pattern."

Photography started as a hobby for Morrissey six or seven years ago, Laura said. It slowly emerged as a serious interest while he was living alone as a student at Middlesex Community College and at Suffolk University.

"I think Paul's photos really captured a lot about his life and his attitude towards it," Paul's friend Jonathan Raberg wrote in an e-mail. "They provided a raw image of the places in which he lived, as grotesque and unsettling as they may have been, but he often presented them in a way that made them look beautiful."

Morrissey was also an avid

writer, compiling approximately 20 journals of work, his father John Morrissey said.

"Wherever he went he'd have a notebook and pen, and you always saw him writing, even when we were just at family gatherings hanging out," Laura said.

He also had a great sense of humor, his family said, always hatching pranks to play on his sister. Once, he put an unfamiliar alarm clock set for 2:30 a.m. in Laura's room, causing her to freak out when it went off.

"He was just standing at my door, laughing at me," Laura said. "It came out of nowhere. We weren't even talking about alarm clocks or sleeping or pranks the night before. He was funny. It was just awesome."

Morrissey attended LHS for his freshman year and then attended the Arlington School in Belmont.

At Suffolk University, Morrissey studied French and psychology, while also holding a work-study job in the foreign language department at Suffolk.

"It was exciting for him to be with those professors, and international students who would go there, and other students who were just as passionate about languages as he was," Laura said.

This coming summer, Mor-

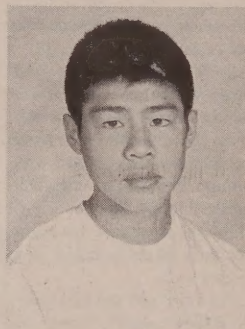


Photo courtesy of John Morrissey
Paul Morrissey

rissey planned to study in an intensive language course in France, said his French professor at Suffolk, Marjorie Salvodon.

"He was jovial and friendly in class, but a little shy," she said. "I am sad not to have had the chance to know him better."

While Paul had many interests and passions, ranging from writing to collecting berets, he also struggled every day, his family said. Morrissey's mother died of cancer when he was 8 years old, leaving his father to raise Laura and Paul. He also suffered from a schizoaffective disorder, having to cope with the paranoia of schizophrenia as well as depression.

"It was almost like having half a friend," Raberg said. "Sometimes, he would be in a great [OBIT, page 7]

Harry Potter movie stays true to book

■ Araz Havan
Staff Writer

The highly anticipated opening of the latest installment of the Harry Potter film franchise was no bust. The film, which opened on Nov. 19, earned more than \$330 million worldwide in ticket sales on its opening weekend.

Tickets for "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" were sold out in theaters as fans flocked to see the famous witches and wizards continue their struggle against evil. To understand the success of the movies, one must first understand the significance of the Harry Potter novels.

The movies feature attractive actors, stunning special effects, and simplified plots, and the books are responsible for giving the movies their entire premise. The franchise itself has an importance that is far greater than mere plot-line.

Harry Potter (played by Daniel Radcliffe), Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint), Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) and other friends have aged alongside a generation, making them household names in every corner of the globe.

It is this relationship that helps create the franchise's unprecedented popularity. Although the last few films and books have been greeted with an unwillingness to let go of a cornerstone of childhood, it is this same reluctance that edges the fame of the franchise to a higher level.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" was one of the most enjoyable installments to date. I was pleasantly surprised to watch a Harry Potter movie in which fabricated scenes were at a minimum and plot line accuracy was a priority.

The few added scenes did not detract from the overall story, though additional scenes from the book could have been added for enrichment.

Releasing the final movie in two parts was an ingenious idea, as it gave the director and screenwriters more screen time to explore the complicated storylines of the final book.

It can be argued that previous movies should have conformed to this arrangement in order to stay more true to the story, but others say that it is just a ploy to collect more money for the franchise.

Though the young actors are now older [MOVIE, page 7]

New leadership of the Varsity Ceramics club provides students with a place to be creative

■ Hoda Yehia
Staff Writer

Think back to one of your early art classes, that first day you were assigned to mold something out of clay. Thick, gooey slabs of clay tingled on the tips of your fingertips. Messy hands and cold molds filled the room. For some students at Lexington High School, however, this euphoric experience happens every Friday afternoon at the Pottery Club.

The Pottery Club, recently renamed the Varsity Ceramics club, meets Fridays after school at 2:30 p.m. and is run by Alana Benson and Ally Boxer. Both are seniors hoping to pursue a future in ceramics and have a passion in making the club succeed.

According to Benson, the club is something of an "underground club." "Up until this year, and until we broke out the sweat-shirts last year, nobody really knew about it," said Benson.

In fact, last year the club was barely even a true club.

"Before we became presidents last year, there were like 5 people in it, and it was very disorganized," Boxer said.

This year, the two presidents have left the past behind in an attempt to restructure the group and give it more of a feeling of community.

"We really just have a lot of fun. It's a nice time to unwind and create artwork with people you usually don't get to hang out with," Benson said.

Erin Mahoney, an LHS art teacher and the club's adviser, begins by greeting everyone as they walk in. After giving a



Staff photo by Arman Bilge

Members of the Varsity Ceramics club work on making pinch pots to be sold. The money the club raises is used towards buying new ceramics equipment.

quick explanation about the task at hand, Mahoney details upcoming fundraising events, such as making cupcake holders.

According to Mahoney, the club is "a good way to help out with fundraising to raise money for equipment for ceramics."

Although the club is open to anyone, there are some restrictions.

"You have to have taken a ceramics class to be in the club, which is sort of unfortunate," Benson said, pointing out that they want to have students with some level of experience so they don't spend the entire time teaching. This is not to say that they won't be willing to offer help to others.

"The pottery club is a fantastic club to

relax," said club member Joseph Marques, a senior. "Also, Ms. Mahoney is very skilled and she will help you."

To many in the club, such as Aitana Martinez, the excitement that people feel when first touching that cool texture of clay is experienced in many different ways.

Martinez said that "doing the projects, and seeing the finished product" is her favorite part about making pottery. "[You] just have to have fun with it, [and] don't stress over it if it turned out good or bad."

Na'ma Celine, a sophomore, summarized the club's encouraging environment: "No one will judge you on your ability, it's a place to try new projects, a place to have fun."

For students who love animals, SPCA club is a way to get involved and make a difference

■ Lydia Gold
Staff Writer

According to the American Humane Society, roughly 60 percent of all dogs and 70 percent of all cats that enter animal shelters are euthanized.

Although many find these statistics upsetting, there had not been a chance to take action about it at Lexington High School in past years. Fortunately, times are changing.

The Students for the Protection and Care of Animals is a new club that was created to provide opportunities for students to stand up against animal cruelty and overpopulation.

Students in SPCA earn community service hours while raising awareness of animal suffering.

Jordan Rios, the club's president, arrived at the idea last April.

"I have always loved animals. I always wanted to help them in some way," she said. "I remem-

ber feeling profoundly saddened by the heart-wrenching [American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals] commercials but, being a child, I felt powerless to do anything. I had no money to donate, and I did not yet know how I could take action."

Rios was discussing community service options with her guidance counselor, Carrie Thibodeau, when she mentioned her club idea. Thibodeau agreed to become the club's adviser on the spot.

"We both share the same passion," Thibodeau said. "We wanted to channel that passion into protecting and advocating for animals."

Thibodeau continued, "Many families simply can't care for their animals due to the devastating effects of the bad economy. I had adopted a rescued kitten from a friend of mine, and the cost of her immunizations, her spay and all that was required to keep her healthy really opened my eyes as to what it takes to care for

an animal. From then on, my mission was how I could help struggling families take care of their pets."

The club strives to work in two ways.

"First, we will raise money for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty

nity dog walk event, as well as arranging visits to local shelters in order to walk and give attention to animals without homes.

"The only thing a student needs in order to be a part of this club is a passion for making a positive difference in the

"The only thing a student needs in order to be a part of this club is a passion for making a positive difference in the lives of animals."

~ Jordan Rios, senior, president of SPCA club

to Animals, a non-profit organization, and two, we will volunteer by working hands-on in local shelters and adoption drives," said Rios.

To accomplish this, the club will explore a number of avenues, including asking local businesses to support their tip jars; holding frequent bake sales; and planning a commu-

nity of animals," Rios said.

Anyone who loves animals can come to club meetings. The club meets Wednesdays starting at 2:45 p.m. in the guidance offices in the math building, though the location is subject to change.

For more information, send an e-mail to SPCA at lhsspc@live.com.

La vie en France: Rain and ramblings

■ Zoe Wood
Columnist

I never thought that I would say this, but I miss New England weather. Here, in Brittany, France, there are few bright sunny days in the fall, and the red and yellow leaves on the trees are soggy and dripping with rain water from the violent showers that soak us almost every day.

When it's not raining, it hails. Just last weekend I played a soccer game while being pelted by hail, although I seemed to be the only one, including the referees, who noticed. Weather here, I have found, is neither to be remarked upon nor to be used as an excuse for not doing something.

The rare days on which the sun has shined, however, have been put to use. That is to say, on sunny days this fall, the streets of Rennes and other cities all over France have been flooded with French people protesting the increasing age of retirement. High schools close and bus systems have ceased to run, as students, teachers, bus drivers and businessmen skip out on work to chant in the streets.

But is it really just the retirement age they are protesting? At the heart of the matter is the overall frustration the French feel for their entire government.

The majority of France finds President Nicolas Sarkozy more laughable than many Americans found George W. Bush. Many say that between cursing at citizens of his country who criticize him and showing up late to state dinners, he has altered the French education system for the worse.

In fact, as I learn more and more about the educational system here, it seems more and more dysfunctional. Students begin to be tracked during their last year of middle school, which corresponds to our freshman year.

If, by then, they are not succeeding in school, they do not have the right to go to a normal high [FRANCE, page 8]

Murals: Students' creativity and artistic talent shine through in new paintings which add personality to the hallways

■ Rae Yen Tan
Staff Writer

Students at Lexington High School cannot walk around the campus without marveling at the murals posted around the school, whether it is the mural of the Beatles or the one of LHS graduates.

For pieces of art that are seen daily by students hustling from class to class, the murals are not something that students spend much time pondering. In reality, though, they play a large role in shaping the school's art community.

For freshmen, the murals have "always been a part of LHS. But if you asked an LHS graduate from 2003 about the murals, he or she wouldn't know what you were talking about," said Sean Hagan, coordinator of the fine arts department. Hagan helped paint one of the first projects, the Aretha Franklin mural, on the walls of Room 212 in 2004.

"I was sitting in the 212 art room one day thinking to myself that it was pretty drab in there. So I decided to spice it up with color," said Hagan. "I think, in general, everyone likes the murals and they appreciate what the murals bring to the school."

Andrew Goulet, an artist for the Musket, is one of the many students who have worked on the murals. His current project is the mural outside Room 701 in the math building, which depicts a colorful fusion of nature

and technology.

"I was working on this mural, outside the computer lab, and I wanted to put a twist on it," Goulet said of his decision to bring two different subjects into one project. When asked his opinion on the importance of the paintings, Goulet said, "The murals make the trips between classes more interesting."

Another aspect the students have observed about the murals is their themes, which are specific to the departments in which they are located.

"I asked [the department heads] to poll their departments for the most relevant figures to represent on our walls," Hagan said. "But for other murals, I just thought they would add some vibrance to the room."

Making the murals a reality, however, is not as simple as picking up a brush and painting.



Left: This mural, found in the main building, depicts four prominent historical figures: Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Mahatma Gandhi, chosen by history teachers.

Staff photo by Adam Forstall

Below: Painted by Mr. Hagan and numerous students, this math building mural was inspired by the junction of nature and technology. Before a mural is created, approval must be granted by the school's administration.

Staff photo by Adam Forstall



"Before the start of any mural, I discuss the idea with Principal Cohen and Associate Principal Lasa, who are both immensely supportive of the murals," Hagan said. "In terms of financial support, the PTSA has been very generous, funding past projects as well as current ones."

As enthusiastic as Hagan is about the murals, he is not interested in a legacy.

"My hope really is that at the least, the murals enrich the environment for the students of Lexington," he said. "It may entice them to try murals of their own, or even help volunteer with future murals."

Buca di Beppo off to a promising start

■ Jonah Bader
Noah Star
News & Op/Ed Editors

When Vinny Testa's recently closed, it looked like Bertucci's and Mario's would be alone in vying for Lexington's Italian food market. Then, in October, Buca di Beppo came into the very location that Vinny T's had occupied.

With 87 locations nationwide, Buca di Beppo is a well-established restaurant chain that strives to have a friendly small-town atmosphere.

The restaurant recently gained local notoriety when Shaquille O'Neal, who recently signed with the Boston Celtics, paid a visit to the restaurant. On Oct. 25, O'Neal came to the Lexington Buca di Beppo for World Pasta Day to help the restaurant donate food to the Greater Boston Food Bank. O'Neal, who also dined at the

restaurant, is an investor in the company.

We recently followed O'Neal's example and went to the restaurant for dinner. At first glance, the decor can be overwhelming and may seem tacky. The walls are covered with Christmas lights, Italian memorabilia and photos depicting Italian-American culture.

Similarly, the menu tries to emulate the carefree family environment of the restaurant, but its attempts fall short. The first page explains the eponymous restaurant philosophy of "Bucanomics," which promotes sharing and explains the size of portions.

According to the restaurant, a small serves three people and a large serves six. Although this did not prove entirely true, the family-style dining made the bill quite low (about \$10 per person) but left us feeling hungry.

Commenting on the Penne Arrabbiata, a pasta dish of penne, meat sauce and hot Italian sausage, Michael Grueter said, "The sausage was dry and overly spiced." Grueter, a junior, is the founder and president of the LHS Cooking Club. "The sausage did not blend well with the rest of the dish," added Nathan Basch, a junior who writes his own food blog and is also a member of the Cooking Club. "It seemed like someone just threw Italian sausage on top."

Grueter, though, also said, "The pasta with meat sauce by itself was good, especially because the pasta was al dente and not overcooked. Many restaurants overcook the pasta."

Next, Grueter reached for the margherita pizza, which had a large amount of mozzarella and a pleasant amount of garlic sauce. But Grueter did not like the crust, saying that

"the crust was like a big cracker. It was obvious that they were focusing on the toppings rather than the crust, and the crust is 75 percent of a margherita pizza."

Basch agreed. "The crust had no flavor," he said. Still, the pair commended the presentation of the pizza.

Despite the subpar reception of the food, the service was praiseworthy. The server seemed hassled but was notably friendly. In addition, he provided quality service and brought out drink refills without request.

In the end, the success of Buca di Beppo in Lexington remains up in the air. With a friendly family atmosphere, good service and support from Shaquille O'Neal, the restaurant has the potential to survive in the competitive Lexington restaurant scene. Only time will tell whether Buca di Beppo is here to stay.

Sudoku

7		5		8				
			2				7	
	3			1		5		
1		2	6		9	3		
	8						4	
		6	7		8	1		5
		4		6			2	
	7				5			
				7		9		1

Fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- * Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- * Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9

The Secret Lives of Teachers

If you could be any animal....

"I would choose to be a bird.
I'd love to have the ability to fly and
to be able to travel all around the world."

Ms. Silverstein, French

"My girlfriend, I would say that she looks like
a lizard and she says I look like a meerkat.
So I would say that that answers your question."

Mr. Barneschi, art

Favorite book(s)?

"Among my favorites are 'Angle
of Repose' by Wallace Stegner and
'High Tide in Tucson' by Barbara Kingsolver."
Dr. Damassa, earth science

**If you could have dinner with any
public figure or celebrity...**

"Abraham Lincoln, because first off, he was supposed
to tell pretty bad jokes he thought were funny
and also to learn about why he felt the union had to
stay together and what type of opposition he faced in
his party when he decided to [issue] the
Emancipation Proclamation."

Mr. Tiernan, special education

If you could live any where in the world....

"Australia seems nice. I definitely
would not live in Delaware."

Mr. David, history

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you for
reading
the
Musket!**

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finished with
reading
the paper,
please recycle it
or pass it on to
another
person.

ADMIT ONE MOVIE PREVIEW



The Green Hornet

Release Date: Jan. 7, 2011

Synopsis: Following the death of his father, Britt Reid and his
friend Kato assume the identity of the Green Hornet and take to
crime fighting.

Reason for Anticipation: Seth Rogen playing a superhero should
be a healthy mix of comedy and action. Given the quality of re-
cent superhero films ("Jonah Hex" excluded), I'm definitely excit-
ed for this one.

True Grit

Release Date: Dec. 22, 2010

Synopsis: Mattie Ross, a 14-year-old girl, enlists a former marshal,
Rooster Cogburn, to help her avenge her father's death.

Reason for Anticipation: This movie's based on an old book and is
a remake of the 1969 film, but the Coen Brothers, could bring a
fresh flair to the film.

-Jeffrey Tsang

The college process

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

instead of announcing the stats
and the scores and putting you
up on that podium where you
believe you surely belong, they
send you home. You shower,
you eat, you watch some TV.
You walk the dog, you read the
paper, you sleep late on Satur-
days.

Then, one day, you get an
e-mail. "Thank you for com-
peting in this race," it reads.
"Check back in mid-December
for the results!" Mid-Decem-
ber, you think. That's a month
away. And then you do the only

thing you can do: you wait.

Perhaps I've won the battle
by submitting everything in
the right place and to the right
people. Perhaps I've won an-
other battle by submitting the
whole thing on time.

But we're still waiting to
hear back on who wins this
war, folks. The jury is still out,
the results are still being tal-
lied, the admissions officers are
still pondering my fate, slowly,
slowly.

Will I emerge victorious?
You'll have to just wait and see.



**What's
hot:**

- ~ The Beatles on iTunes
- ~ Non-denominational
Secret Santa swaps
- ~ Random acts of
kindness



**What's
not:**

- ~ Paying extra money for 3-D
movie tickets
- ~ Cold weather
- ~ Educational websites being
blocked by school filters

TECHNOLOGY - PAGE 1

especially salient given the new attendance policy. Students' ability to check their N statuses is even more important, considering the potential lack of clarity as students adjust to the new policy.

"Now students can't complain if they are getting an N, because they can see it on their account," said Varsha Kannan, a junior.

The new attendance system is only one example of the increased integration of technology at Lexington High School. In the past few years there has also been an increased use of the Internet to announce, distribute and alter assignments.

Vikas Shiva, a sophomore, noted how many of his teachers have websites.

"All of them except my art teacher have websites for the class, so that makes six," he said. "I use these websites nearly everyday so I find them extremely useful."

There are many benefits to posting assignments on the Internet. Students have easier access to assignments, and the excuse that they "forgot the homework" is even less valid than before. This puts increased responsibility on the students, and the websites serve as a safeguard for students who are absent from class.

Madame Farber-Mazor, a French teacher at LHS, said, "I have a pretty high expectation of student responsibility as it is! I would say that I do hold students more responsible for work after an absence, since now I expect them to check the website and find out what they've missed."

Andrew Chang, a junior, embraces the electronic posting of assignments.

"Sometimes I need to get to another class and don't have a whole lot of time to write down the homework, especially when it's announced later in the class," he said. "It's just more convenient to check [the website]."

Another web-related evolution seen at LHS is the use of websites to distribute worksheets, PowerPoint presentations and notes.

"My science teacher had us download and print a lab to not waste paper," Chang said, "but generally it's never required to go onto a website." Nonetheless, there are some students who still prefer papers to be passed out by their teachers.

Overall, the new technological additions have been met with positive student response. In the age of the BlackBerry and the iPad, it seems that online tools have made a successful entry into the classroom.

COUNCIL- PAGE 1

Currently, the class council of 2014 is working on selling sweatpants and hooded sweat-shirts to raise money for their class. The council members are also considering a bracelet sale, a Harry Potter movie night and a winter dance.

With so much to do, there is never enough help, Queenin said. "While initially people fill out those forms to get their name on the ballot, and there's all those kids that get elected, usually other kids sign on because they just want to be part of it. So whoever is interested in being on class council can be on it whether they ran or not. It's a very inclusive group. In fact, as I see it, the more kids that do it, the better. We have better results, more kids are involved in the planning."

Class involvement also goes beyond attending council meetings.

"I think that it's important for everyone to realize that class council can really help make their year enjoyable," Song said. "If we can get enough suggestions from students, we have the ability to make a lot of changes in the things they want to see in their freshmen events." Feedback from the rest of the Class of 2014 can help improve events as well as give the officers ideas for future events.

While they are focused on administrative details for class events, the class council has one main objective. "Our goal is mainly based on helping the Class of 2014 to have a memorable experience for their freshmen year," Yoon said.

Any freshmen interested in getting involved the class council is welcome to speak to its adviser, Martha Queenin, in the main guidance office. Elected or not, everyone may attend. Meetings are every second X block of the month.

MOVIE - PAGE 4

than the ages they are portraying, they are still convincing in their roles as characters who are both naïve and jaded.

The cinematography is excellent, with wide shots of desolate landscapes juxtaposed with finer, more personal scenes. Often, the camera works to make the viewer feel as if he or she is standing on the slope with the characters, looking about the vast countryside, or tightly packed in a hallway, shaking slightly from nervousness.

At times heart-warming, frightening, and poignant, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" is an installment you should not miss. It may be just enough to keep that waning bit of childhood alive.

TARDY - PAGE 1

that the teacher will mark them tardy, when before the teacher planned to waive the tardiness.

Many teachers already inform their students.

"I have to tell students because I don't have a written policy," said Jim Williams, a faculty senator.

Some teachers supported the resolution, while others opposed it.

"I've noticed over the course of the last year that less responsibility is put on students, and more is put on teachers," said Karen Girondel, another faculty senator. "Whether it's interventions for students who aren't doing well, or letting kids know when they are tardy. At some point, students have to take responsibility."

Some of the support for the resolution stemmed from the new connection between tardiness and grades; as a result of tardiness, students can lose as much as 10 percent of their total grades.

"Notifying students is more important now that your grade can be affected," said Sen. Gregory Muir, a junior. "A student has the right to know what their attendance status is."

Clear communication between teachers and students has pros and cons. Students may find it helpful to be informed of their tardiness because they can avoid losing points on their grades. Others may actually prefer not to be notified because they do not want to be embarrassed in front of their classmates.

In the end, the controversy boils down to responsibility. Sen. Ben Berners-Lee, a junior, said, "We can never create a world in which teachers can always be taking responsibility for their students."

THANK YOU

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HOLIDAYS - PAGE 2

equal representation of holidays over the school year to become a more diverse and caring school environment.

Religious holidays are important to the people celebrating them because they represent important events in these religions. But because there are no official days off for their religions, students who are not Christian or Jewish have to make a compromise between faith and school work.

AMNESTY - PAGE 3

release of the Burmese political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as a fight against human trafficking. In order to do so, the club has attempted to create awareness around the school and the surrounding community.

"By creating awareness and educating people, the number of victims decrease and the number of people who are able to prevent this issue increase," said Surya Menon, co-president and treasurer of Amnesty. "So basically, we want to create awareness about the lack of awareness."

OBIT- PAGE 3

mood, ready to talk and laugh and hang out for hours. Other times, he wouldn't pick up the phone or he would tell me he wasn't in a good place and would rather be alone."

Morrissey struggled with having an unusual perception of the world, his family said.

"He really did see things differently," Laura said. "As cool as that is, that was what made him feel so isolated. No one would ever think of things the way he did, and that's what was really hard for him."

Morrissey is survived by his sister and father, Laura and John. His family would appreciate donations to Samaritans, an organization dedicated to helping suicidal teens and adults and to providing education on suicide prevention. To learn more, visit www.samaritansofboston.org. Bring any donations to the main office.

CORRECTION: In the last issue's op-ed column, the Musket incorrectly reported that according to the new attendance policy, tardiness could affect 10 percent of a student's participation grade. Tardiness can affect up to 10 percent of the total grade.

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2010 - 2011

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Varsity boys' soccer team finishes in the semi-finals

■ Zach Sabin
Sports Editor
Matt Schreiberman
Staff Writer

The LHS varsity boys' soccer team lost to Newton North High School in the semifinals of MIAA Boys Soccer North Division 1 playoffs.

The final score, 2-1, was the team's only loss of the season.

Many of the players on the team contributed the loss due to the various injuries of many team members. Yaakov Lyubetsky, a senior, said that the team was hurt by "lots and lots of injuries. Most of the starting lineup was injured in some way or another."

Chris Batty, another senior on the team, said that because of the injuries, their performance in the end-of-season tournament was "not [their] best."

Perhaps their low self-assessment is due to high expectations from last season, when they went on to the state semifinals, having done "a lot better," Lyubetsky said.

But not all players think it was such a bad season.



Photo courtesy of Shannon Vanderhoof
Alex Herbert, a junior, fights off two opponents during a fall soccer game. The team finished the season with only one loss.

"Overall, it was a good season," said Joey McWeeney, although "expectations sort of fell short with the one loss."

Even a loss in the late rounds of a tournament wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of Sam Eddy, a sophomore, who described it as "one of the best [seasons] so far. It was exciting and fun, which is what it's

really all about."

Many players attributed the team's success this season to their coach, Dan Rudolf. Batty said he was a "solid coach" who helped the team to achieve great success in a competitive environment. The team has achieved a great season, in large part due to their dedicated fans and excellent coach.

La vie en France

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

school, and they are told by the state that they must go to vocational school. Their path to higher education ends at age 14 or 15.

And then there are those who succeed in middle school, or college as they say. During the sophomore year of school, students must choose their career paths and start to prepare.

A friend once explained to me her career dilemma: I want to be a brain surgeon, she told me. I have the grades I need to become one, she explained, but what I'm worried about is that I won't like it.

Very reasonable, I thought. Imagine being stuck doing something you don't like for the rest of your life, especially something as intense and draining as brain surgery. What is more, unlike in the United States, it is very hard to change career paths after you have started preparing for a particular career.

Of course, the American school system probably seems bizarre, inefficient even, to French students. Louise and Margot, the two young sisters I tutor in English, stared at me,

open-mouthed, as I explained to them that most Americans don't know what they want to do for work until they are nearly 20 years old.

They looked equally repulsed as I showed them how to make banana bread, which absolutely no one eats in France. As we mushed the bananas to a pulp with forks, the girls wrinkled their noses and asked me if I wasn't making a mistake.

Thankfully, the bread came out well and Margot and Louise liked it, at least that's what they told me in heavily accented English. Next week, they said, they'll teach me how to make macaroons, something they learned how to do when they lived in Paris, a city that they were not very sad to leave. It's interesting, the opinion that most French share about Paris, and probably the opposite of what you'd expect.

It seems that in many aspects of life, from weather to education to food to travel, France is more different from home than I ever thought.

Ah! It's hailing again and I better find some shelter! Jusqu'à la prochaine fois!

LHS girls' swimming places 2nd in league

■ Caitlin Go
Nicole Sekula
Staff Writers

The LHS girls swim team ended a successful season this fall on Nov. 4 at Bentley University, placing second in the Middlesex League Meet against eight other towns. Their overall record for in-league meets was 8-1 this season, with only one loss to Reading.

Despite losing to longtime rival Reading, the girls were extremely proud of their efforts this year.

"We fought a good fight against the four-time league champion Reading, and the girls really stepped it up," said senior Scarlett Hao, one of the four swim team captains.

Garni Aroyan, a sophomore on the team, agreed.

"Reading was one of the most successful meets we had," she said. "It did not matter [that] we lost - the part that surprised me was how much everyone gave just to be there and to give it our all."

The girls all agreed that team spirit and unity were cru-

cial factors that contributed to their success this season.

"The season this fall was amazing. There was so much team bonding and team unity this year," said Karen Lin, a sophomore.

The four captains this year, Mackenzie Cyr, Pooja Kumar, Kelsey Sym, and Hao, were essential in helping the season run smoothly for the entire team.

"Our captains are dedicated swimmers who work very hard the entire season. It's not easy controlling 49 chatty girls! I have to give them a lot of credit for dealing with us," said Stephanie Wilson, a sophomore. "Each captain had great ideas to contribute to the team as well as great times to add to our score."

As Sym, one of the team captains, put it, "This has by far been my favorite season and I think the smoothest-running season... I feel as though our team has really excelled in bonding, being inclusive of everyone, and welcoming newcomers to the team. I finally feel as though we are one big family."

Unicyclist Ryotaro Honda

■ Dan Bernstein
Staff Writer

It may seem at times that high school is overwhelming; that no matter how much you organize or reconfigure your schedule, there is no way to balance it all. Freshman Ryotaro Honda, however, balances all the time, perched perfectly atop his unicycle on his way to and from school each day.

A hobby that he learned in his native Japan, unicycling is just one of Honda's many interests, which also include cross-country, a sport that he dedicates much of his time to.

Unicycling is a sport that requires a unique combination of balance, posture, and attitude, so when Honda discovered that his school owned a set of unicycles, he jumped on the opportunity to try it out. It took him a mere three weeks to master the art and ride with no supports, a feat he said was "very hard to learn."

Even after his recent move to Lexington, he continues to unicycle.

"I love riding [a] unicycle and I don't want to forget how to ride it," Honda wrote in an e-mail.

Even with the daily four mile round trip between the school and his home, Honda said he loves the exhilaration of the trek, adding that "there are many bumps and potholes on the sidewalks which is

to place one foot on the pedal and push upward with a force that elevates his entire body onto the unicycle. From there he pedals rapidly with only a slight wobble in his position.

Many friends attempt to mount and

very hard to ride through... I like the thrill." He continued on, saying that he enjoys having his hands free while riding.

To mount his vehicle, Honda first tilts the entire contraption towards the ground. He then proceeds

ride the unicycle, a process Honda finds comical as so many can't even figure out how to get on.

Many people wonder how Honda manages to keep balance on his unicycle when others tend to falter. Honda's cross-country teammate, Alan Liu, said "[most people] don't know how to balance... it's dangerous, they either fall, or tip over."

Although he is able to master a feat others find impossible, simple feats can often elude him. Liu said, "He's actually better riding a unicycle than riding an actual bike."

